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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Report of the Second Committee (Part I)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Irene FREUDENSCHUSS-REICHL (Austria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 September 1993, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" and to allocate to the Second Committee chapters of the Council's report (A/48/3) 1/ that were considered under the relevant items of the agenda (see A/C.2/48/1).

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 12th to 14th, 45th, 47th and 48th meetings, on 18 and 19 October and 6, 10 and 13 December. An account of the Committee's general discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/48/SR.12-14). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, on 8 and 11 to 13 October (see A/C.2/48/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1993 (A/48/3); 1/

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* The report on this agenda item will be issued in two parts (see also A/48/715/Add.1).

1/ To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/48/3/Rev.1).

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the prevention and control of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) (A/48/159-E/1993/59);

(c) Letter dated 12 May 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/172);

(d) Letter dated 28 May 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the press communiqué issued by the Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at its meeting held in Bali, Indonesia, from 10 to 13 May 1993 (A/48/182);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (A/48/183 and Add.1-E/1993/74 and Add.1);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the economic and social consequences of the establishment of settlements by Israel in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and the Syrian Golan (A/48/188-E/1993/78);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General on the United Nations Population Award (A/48/276);

(h) Letter dated 9 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Document of the Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Bali from 10 to 13 May 1993 (A/48/338);

(i) Letter dated 24 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the Japan Economic Summit, held in Tokyo from 7 to 9 July 1993 (A/48/353-S/26372);

(j) Letter dated 6 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, held at United Nations Headquarters on 4 October 1993 (A/48/484-S/26552);

(k) Report of the Secretary-General on special assistance to Namibia (A/48/498);

(l) Letter dated 8 November 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the conclusions, decisions and declarations adopted by the Latin American Council of the Latin American Economic System at its nineteenth ordinary ministerial meeting, held at Caracas from 25 to 29 October 1993 (A/48/597).

4. At the 12th meeting, on 18 October, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the representative of the Director-General of the World Health Organization, the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, New York Office, and the Director of the Regional Commissions, New York Office (see A/C.2/48/SR.12).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.17

5. At the 45th meeting, on 6 December, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, the Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen, subsequently joined by Cuba, Indonesia and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan" (A/C.2/48/L.17). Lebanon subsequently withdrew as a sponsor of the draft resolution.

6. At the 47th meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ryszard Rysinski (Poland), made a statement in which he informed the Committee of the following oral revisions to the draft resolution made as a result of informal consultations:

(a) In the last preambular paragraph, the words "in particular" were inserted before the words "the signing";

(b) In operative paragraph 2, the word "peace" was replaced by the words "economic and social development";

(c) Operative paragraph 4, which read:

> "Strongly deplores Israel's practices in the occupied Palestinian territory and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, in particular its confiscation of land, its appropriation of water resources, its depletion of other economic resources and its displacement and deportation of the population of those territories;"

was deleted;

(d) In operative paragraph 5, the words "without legal validity" were replaced by the word "illegal".

7. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Botswana and Israel (see A/C.2/48/SR.47).

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.17 by a recorded vote of 113 to 2, with 13 abstentions (see para. 16, draft resolution I). 2/ The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Belarus, Botswana, Croatia, Czech Republic, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nigeria, Peru, Russian Federation, Samoa, Togo, Uruguay.

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (see A/C.2/48/SR.47).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/48/L.18 and L.90

10. At the 45th meeting, on 6 December, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, the Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen, subsequently joined by Indonesia and Pakistan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people" (A/C.2/48/L.18). Lebanon subsequently withdrew as a sponsor of the draft resolution. The draft resolution read as follows:

2/ Subsequently, the delegation of Mauritania indicated that, had it been present at the time of the vote, it would have voted in favour.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 47/170 of 22 December 1993,

"Aware of the negative impact the Israeli policies have had on the economic and social activities of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem,

"Gravely concerned about the destruction of a large part of the occupied Palestinian territory's economic and social infrastructure and the deterioration in the living conditions of the Palestinian people,

"Aware that development cannot be attained under occupation,

"Welcoming the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes and Agreed Minutes, between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, 3/

"Noting, in the light of the recent developments, the great economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian people and their leadership,

"Conscious of the urgent necessity for, and responsibility of, the international community to provide all kinds of assistance to the Palestinian people in accordance with Palestinian priorities,

"Noting the convening of the United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization from 26 to 29 April 1993,

"Stressing the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building the Palestinian National Authority and in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people in all needed fields,

"Welcoming the convening of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, held in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993 and the establishment of the high-level United Nations task force to support the economic and social development of the Palestinian people,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, 4/

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his rapid response and efforts regarding assistance to the Palestinian people;

3/ A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

4/ A/48/183-E/1993/74 and Add.1.

"3. Expresses its appreciation to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people;

"4. Welcomes the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993;

"5. Urges Member States, international financial institutions of th United Nations system, international intergovernmental and non-governmen organizations and regional and interregional organizations to extend, as rapidly and as generously as possible, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people in order to assist in the development of the Palestinian territory, and to do so in close cooperation with the Palesti Liberation Organization and through official Palestinian institutions;

"6. Encourages an active and broad United Nations role in assisting in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes and Agreed Minutes;

"7. Calls upon all organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to immediately start to establish a direct and official presence i the Palestinian territory and to intensify their assistance in response t the urgent needs of the Palestinian people, and calls upon them for great and more effective coordination through an appropriate mechanism under th auspices of the Secretary-General;

"8. Calls for the granting of trade concessions and concrete preferential measures for Palestinian exports on the basis of Palestinian certificates of origin;

"9. Suggests that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People consider in its programme for 1993-1994 the convening of a seminar on Palestinian needs in the light of the new developments;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, to convene, as soon as possible, a meeting of United Nations system organizations and agencies, to ensure th coordinated work of the United Nations system for adequate response to th needs of the Palestinian people and to mobilize financial, technical, economic and other assistance;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Gener Assembly at its forty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:

(a) An assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people;

(b) An assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals f responding effectively to them;

"12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session an item entitled 'Assistance to the Palestinian people'."

11. At the 48th meeting, on 13 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ryszard Rysinski (Poland), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/48/L.90) submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.18.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.90 without a vote (see para. 16, draft resolution II).

13. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Russian Federation, Norway and Algeria (on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.18), as well as by the Observer for Palestine (see A/C.2/48/SR.48).

14. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.90, draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.18 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

Documents relating to the report of the Economic and Social Council

15. At its 48th meeting, on 13 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the reports under the item on which no draft proposals had been submitted (see para. 17).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

16. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/172 of 22 December 1992,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/52 of 29 July 1993,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of people under foreign occupation over their national resources,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and recalling Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and other resolutions affirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949 5/ to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Aware of the negative and grave economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan,

Welcoming the ongoing Middle East peace process started at Madrid, and in particular the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes, and its Agreed Minutes, by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, 6/

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 7/

2. Reaffirms that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, are illegal and an obstacle to economic and social development;

3. Recognizes the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan;

4. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the population of the Syrian Golan to their natural and all other economic resources, and regards any infringement thereof as being illegal;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

5/ United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

6/ A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

7/ A/48/188-E/1993/78.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Assistance to the Palestinian people

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/170, of 22 December 1992,

Welcoming the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes, and its Agreed Minutes, by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, 8/

Gravely concerned over the difficult economic and employment conditions facing the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Territory,

Conscious of the need for improvement in the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Territory and in the living conditions of the Palestinian people,

Aware that development is difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

Noting, in the light of the recent developments, the great economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian people and their leadership,

Conscious of the urgent necessity for international assistance to the Palestinian people, taking into account the Palestinian priorities,

Noting the convening of the United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization from 26 to 29 April 1993,

Stressing the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people,

Welcoming the convening of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, held in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, and the establishment of the high-level United Nations task force to support the economic and social development of the Palestinian people,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, 9/

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

8/ A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

9/ A/48/183-E/1993/74 and Add.1.

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his rapid response and efforts regarding assistance to the Palestinian people;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people;

4. Welcomes the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993;

5. Urges Member States, international financial institutions of the United Nations system, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional and interregional organizations to extend, as rapidly and as generously as possible, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people in order to assist in the development of the West Bank and Gaza, and to do so in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and through official Palestinian institutions;

6. Considers that an active United Nations role in assisting in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes, and its Agreed Minutes, can make a positive contribution;

7. Calls upon relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people, and to improve coordination through an appropriate mechanism under the auspices of the Secretary-General;

8. Urges Member States to open their markets to exports from the West Bank and Gaza on the most favourable terms, consistent with appropriate trading rules;

9. Suggests the convening in 1993/94, under the appropriate United Nations auspices, of a seminar on Palestinian trade and investment needs in light of the new developments;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the coordinated work of the United Nations system for an adequate response to the needs of the Palestinian people and to mobilize financial, technical, economic and other assistance;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:

(a) An assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people;

(b) An assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them;

12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session an item entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people".

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17. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

DRAFT DECISION

Documents relating to the report of the Economic and Social Council

The General Assembly decides to take note of the following documents:

(a) Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1993; 10/

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the prevention and control of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS); 11/

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the United Nations Population Award; 12/

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on special assistance to Namibia. 13/

10/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/48/3/Rev.1).

11/ A/48/159-E/1993/59.

12/ A/48/276.

13/ A/48/498.